

News Release

Senator Pete V. Domenici

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOMENICI: \$33.1 MILLION FOR NEW MEXICO MILITARY CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS SOON TO BE LAW

Congress Finishes Work on FY 2001 Military Construction Bill

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. Senate today completed action on and sent to the White House a bill that includes \$33.1 million in military construction funds for projects at five military facilities in New Mexico, Senator Pete Domenici today reported.

Domenici, an Appropriations Committee member, said both the Senate and House have given final approval to the **FY 2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill** - the final congressional action needed before the measure can be sent to the White House for consideration. The president has indicated he will sign the bill.

"Today we've cleared the final congressional hurdle in the quest to provide this funding for the serious construction needs at New Mexico military installations," Domenici said. "When we send this bill to the president, we will be telling him that we completely reject his budget, which requested zero construction funding for New Mexico for the second year in a row."

"This funding represents an investment in the vitality of New Mexico military installations, which have given so much back to their host communities and, indeed, the entire state," he said. "I look forward to the president signing this bill into law in very short order."

The FY2001 Military Construction Appropriations Bill includes a total of \$33.1 million secured by Domenici for military construction projects at Cannon, Holloman and Kirtland Air Force Bases in New Mexico, as well as White Sands Missile Range and the New Mexico Army National Guard at Santa Fe.

In addition, the Military Construction Bill contains an emergency supplemental aid package that includes \$661 million to begin compensating the victims of the Cerro Grande Fire that burned parts of Los Alamos in May.

In his February budget request, President Clinton did not request any military construction funding for New Mexico military bases.

Military construction appropriations approved for New Mexico include:

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, Albuquerque – **\$7.352 million to replace Fire/Crash Rescue Station facilities**, which are currently located in dilapidated buildings off the flight line and beyond the flight line security gate.

CANNON AIR FORCE BASE, Clovis – **\$4.93 million to replace the Air Control Tower**, which currently does not have a clear view of all taxiways, leaving controllers unable to see 100 meters of the taxiway where F-16 arming is performed. Concrete chunks fall from the catwalk, temporary tubing has replaced the leaking water lines, and the mechanical systems can no longer heat or cool the tower cab.

HOLLOMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Alamogordo – **\$18.38 million to replace/repair the Bonito Pipeline** between La Luz, N.M., Alamogordo, and Holloman, a 40-year-old water source critical to the base population, fire fighting and mission operations. Corrosion has weakened the reinforcing steel surrounding the pipeline, and internal water pressures cause frequent failures.

WHITE SANDS MISSILE RANGE – **\$1 million for a Certified Chemistry Lab** at WSMR, a facility that will provide certified analytical tests for hazardous materials and wastes. It will also be used to test water and wastewater in accordance with state and federal environmental laws.

NEW MEXICO ARMY NATIONAL GUARD – **\$1.44 million for planning and design of a new Army Aviation Support Facility** in Santa Fe, a mission critical facility for the 717th Medical Company which provides medical evacuation for the Army when deployed and search and rescue in New Mexico when at home. Current facilities are undersized due to their recent upgrade to large UH-60 helicopters, resulting in most maintenance work taking place on the flight line.